

■ BACK PAGE

Religious teaching, legal background help ombudsman's approach

The tale of a 26-year-old former drug addict is all part of the day's work for Johann Baptist Röder, ombudsman of the Rhineland-Palatinate.

The young man seemed to have succeeded in kicking the habit. After long-term therapy he took school-leaving exams at night school and attended a course as a photo laboratory assistant.

He was due to start a full-time course at a printing college when the law caught up with him. He was sentenced to 25 months in prison for drug offences dating back to 1976.

This looked like it. He ran a risk of reverting to drugs as the only way out of his dilemma. He was scared stiff of the stigma that threatened to ruin his life again.

So he wrote to Herr Röder, the "citizens' representative" or ombudsman of the Rhineland-Palatinate. This is what the ombudsman's annual report was later to say about the case.

"His petition led to the sentence being converted by way of clemency into a suspended sentence accompanied by four years' strict probation."

This is a typical case for Röder rather than for the ombudsman. Röder enjoys the authority by virtue of his name and career; the ombudsman is a relative newcomer with strictly limited powers.

Strictly speaking they don't entitle him to bring influence to bear on the



Johann Baptist Röder (Photo: lpa)

courts, but Herr Röder is more for the spirit than for the letter of the law. This is probably what has enabled him to breathe life into his job and help others to go further than they otherwise might in a bid to do the right thing by an aggrieved member of the public.

"Dissatisfaction with the state," he says, "is first and foremost dissatisfaction with bureaucracy." His own dissatisfaction with red tape has made many a bureaucrat tremble.

Röder, 58, is a lawyer by training. He began his career as a teacher of religious affairs at a Bingen trades college and is a Christian Democrat.

He served as a CDU member of the state assembly from 1955 to 1974 and was Speaker of the assembly from 1971. No-one can pull the wool over his eyes. He knows his way around.

His rights are limited, as is his field of activity at the point where Parliament, administration and the public meet. Formally he is attached to the state assembly's petitions committee. It is not a politically controversial appointment.

Yet his appointment was met with scepticism five years ago. Röder, how-

ever, has the facts at his fingertips and can prove his point that more extensive rights for the petitions committee would not have had the same effect.

After five years as the country's first and so far only ombudsman, Herr Röder can fairly claim that people would sooner apply to an individual than to a committee for help.

Letters come in from would-be home builders who fail to understand what the licensing authority has written them, from students who are unhappy with their grants, from foreign nationals who want to appeal against a deportation order, from widows in litigation with the local authority and from civic action groups protesting against roadbuilding plans.

Most cases he deals with are minor matters from the viewpoint of the authority that has failed to give the plaintiff satisfaction. From the individual's viewpoint they are a crucial clash with the powers that be.

Yet these "minor matters" are what determine the attitude of the general public towards the state. Instead of providing service, civil servants often rule with the aid of a plethora of rules and regulations.

Instead of providing a government service for the good of the public they tend to patronise the applicant as though the individual had no rights but were solely dependent on their good will.

People are embittered by encounters of this kind and others readily agree in conversation that the state is to blame, as the government of Rhineland-Palatinate realised when the post was first mooted.

The ombudsman is a "suitable therapy" by which to treat dissatisfaction with the state, Professor Rainer Pletznier of Speyer administrative college wrote in *Juristische Arbeitsblätter*, 7/76.

Therapist Röder, with the salary and status of a state secretary, takes a similar view of his socio-psychological role: "All being well, my work can lead to the agreeable solution the law requires to difficulties between the administration and the general public."

"I can also solve conflicts indirectly. I may be unable to help in many instances where people have doubts whether they have been fairly treated by the state, but I can explain the position and help to reduce mistrust."

What makes the ombudsman a better-known figure than the petitions committee is his regular surgery in Mainz and in various cities around the state.

Older and socially weaker people take the opportunity provided by his surgery to make contact without having to put pen to paper.

Spot checks have a twofold effect. The petitioner can see that the ombudsman is dealing with his complaint. So can the mayor. This is parliamentary control at village level.

Herr Röder is entitled to use official channels to see what civil servants have been doing, but he prefers the unofficial approach.

He handles about 2,500 complaints a year but only in 7 or 8 cases does he use red tape to combat red tape. "Complaints and requests from the public must be given priority," he says.



Johann Baptist Röder (Photo: lpa)

Over the past five years building mission procedures have given a most complaints. City-dwellers understand why they must do their country cottage even though local mayor encouraged them to ahead and build it.

A local authority builds roads, naga and other facilities without letting the owner of the land they can house-owner has to make way for a Building permission leads to the with the neighbours.

Cases such as these are probably aler and his overworked staff of lawyers, two senior civil servants three secretaries.

They prefer to overhear dissatisfied and protest on the part of the ties they upset. What matters is that nearly 4 out of 10 cases petitions helped last year.

The ombudsman's job is to take a second look at administrative decisions not just from the legal position but as to whether they serve the purpose.

If not, the authority concerned is requested to reconsider its decision. Do the ombudsman do a better job of task than the state assembly's petitions committee?

Drawbacks to petitions committee

In a comparative survey on behalf of the Rhineland-Palatinate political department, Udo Kempf concluded in 1976 that the petitions committee was inefficient as it stood.

This was partly because it was not by parliamentary newcomers but by make names for themselves and promotion to more prestigious committees.

They were also MPs with so other jobs to do that they were unable to devote sufficient time and energy to their petitions committee work.

Kempf reckoned that in the long run the ombudsman could well replace the petitions committee entirely.

Röder will hear nothing of such milices. "Collaboration with the petitions committee is important and good," says, although his annual report much-read document, notes that petitions are often held over for longer than they really are the case.

He is a white-haired, stocky, nearing 60 who is fond of wearing ties, and although he is a therapist, still very much a politician.

Claudia Dillmann (Die Zeit, 25 April 1979)

The German Tribune

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Hot-cold Soviet moods fail to isolate Bonn

Publics and anniversaries are nowhere held in higher esteem than in the communist world. Communist leaders are given to basking time and again in the reflected glory of great events (or at least, events that could have turned out worse).

Speeches are already being drafted in the Kremlin to mark the tenth anniversary on 12 August of the treaty with Bonn that set Bonn-Moscow ties on a new footing.

But Kremlin pen-pushers are finding it somewhat difficult to characterise Moscow's attitude towards Bonn, given that it has fluctuated continually over the past decade.

Valentin Falin, the former Soviet ambassador to Bonn, once said that ties between West Germany and the Soviet Union, while not as good as they might have been, were much better than one could have dared to hope before the 1970 treaty was signed.

Ties have indeed seemed to be as cordial as might be expected between a parliamentary democracy and an authoritarian, bureaucratic state, especially in view of the division of Germany.

At the end of last year, however, ties between Bonn and Moscow were transformed from a condition that could only be described as crashing boredom into one of fairly incalculable tension.

Bonn was subjected to decidedly bracing hot and cold showers, a succession of threats and inducements, in connection with Nato's decision to develop a new generation of medium-range missiles.

This December decision, reached by Nato leaders in Brussels, was a mere re-

moment praised for being cool, calm and collected, only to be accused of incitement and adventurism likely to upset the peace the next.

First the Kremlin indicated it would be happy to welcome Chancellor Schmidt to Moscow this summer, then, a few weeks later, one of Moscow's propaganda media was guilty of a clear breach of the 1970 treaty.

Between the two Bonn had recommended its National Olympic Committee to boycott the Moscow Olympics, a move the Soviet leaders had sought to forestall till the last.

A few days later *Novosti*, the Soviet news agency, launched a ferocious propaganda attack on Bonn that has been the highlight of the Soviet war of nerves so far.

"The territory of the Federal Republic of Germany", the Soviet agency claimed, has according to the will of its leaders practically become a target for counter-attack in the event of conflict."

Even in the language of diplomatic restraint to which Bonn is officially given there can be no other description of this statement than an unbridled threat.

By the terms of Article Two of the 1970 treaty Bonn and Moscow undertook "to refrain from threatening or using violence on matters affecting security, as also in mutual relations in keeping with Article Two of the UN Charter."

Moscow's stick-and-carrot tactics have failed to influence Bonn's decisions on either the Nato missile resolution or the Olympic boycott.

But they have not been entirely without effect. Below government level and outside it trends in recent weeks can hardly fail to have been to the Kremlin strategists' liking.

When the Moscow treaty was signed ten years ago there was a powerful groundswell in West Germany in favour



East German leader Erich Honecker (left) and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt meet at Tito's funeral in Belgrade. Behind the Chancellor is Bonn spokesman Klaus Böttling. (Photo: dpa)

of coming to terms with the Soviet Union and turning a new leaf on a note of confidence.

The current tenor is all too often one of despondency. A faint-hearted tendency towards appeasement, based partly on obvious self-interest by its advocates, partly on exaggerated anxiety, has taken over from the erstwhile utopian of a new historical perspective.

There can, of course, be no lamenting the abandonment of unrealistic expectations but the trend is by no means harmless. A strange mixture of faint-heartedness and dissatisfaction with the United States, both everywhere apparent, could wear out the vital realisation that when it comes to security our interests are inextricably interwoven with those of the United States.

At the same time a return to normal and stabilisation of ties between Bonn and Moscow are called for and seem sure to be based on a more sober appraisal.

It will be up to Chancellor Schmidt to lay the groundwork for this reappraisal on his forthcoming visit to Moscow.

Claus Preller

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 May 1980)

Schmidt to go to Moscow, but date not yet fixed

Chancellor Schmidt has accepted the Soviet invitation to visit Moscow but has not decided when, Bonn Foreign Ministry state secretary Günter van Well has told Soviet ambassador Vladimir Semynov.

Herr Schmidt, it is generally felt in Bonn, is most unlikely to visit the Soviet Union before the Venice International economic summit on 22 and 23 June.

Since he will hardly want to fly to Moscow on the eve of the Olympics in June it looks like the Chancellor will be travelling to the Soviet Union at the end of June or the beginning of July.

The Foreign Ministry was going to brief Bonn's Western allies on the talks between Herr van Well and Mr Semynov.

The Kremlin repeated the procedure after its invasion of Afghanistan. The German government in general and the Chancellor in particular were one

Jockeying for position at Tito's funeral

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES
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Seldom has there been such worldwide unanimity on the merits of a man's life's work as in the obituary notices for President Tito of Yugoslavia.

Sorrow and dismay were voiced from San Francisco to Vladivostok and from Helsinki to Melbourne. It sounded as though Tito had ended his days without an enemy in the world.

Seldom, for that matter, has the demise of a major statesman been overlaid by so much political activity and speculation.

Hardly had the news of his long-expected death sped along the wires but people in the world's corridors of power started wondering who would attend his funeral.

The Chinese were first to react, announcing that Hua Guofeng, their No. 1, would be attending. It was, perhaps, no coincidence that China was so quick off the mark.

In 1977 Tito had visited China and restored ties between the two countries to a cordial footing. Moscow has since looked on bitterly and suspiciously as China and Yugoslavia have pursued a policy of close partnership and collaboration.

Chairman Hua's second visit to Belgrade was doubtless an astute signal to Tito's heirs that China is still on Yugoslavia's side, inasmuch as the geographical distance between them makes this possible.

The White House in Washington showed less sensitivity in openly re-examining its guarantee of Yugoslav security.

One wonders whether it might not

Continued on page 2

Politics at first hand

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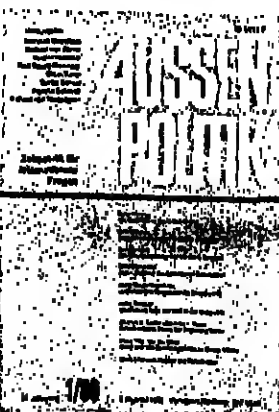
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■ INTERVIEW

War and peace: psychology of an uncertain world

The long-term task of humanity, that of overcoming war, can be achieved, according to Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, Professor of Theoretical Physics and Philosophy and Director of the Max Planck Institute, Starnberg. However, war could not be overcome if the old sovereign powers continued to threaten one another with weapons as big that they were afraid to use them, he says in an interview with Udo Heiser of Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt.

Question: Professor von Weizsäcker, recent polls have shown that fear of war in this country has grown in recent months. Is this an over-reaction? It is probably a reaction to Afghanistan. Do you think these increasing fears are justified in view of the real world situation?

A: Unfortunately I must say that I do not find these fears completely unjustified. I have myself been very concerned about this danger for a long time and I was always somewhat surprised that the objective danger that there could be war one day was not made clear.

I feel that the event generally referred to by the name of Afghanistan has torn away the curtain and many people realize that the situation is dangerous. This does not mean that war is inevitable. All I am saying is that the situation is not without danger.

Q: Perhaps we should start by looking at the worst of all conceivable possibilities, namely that Western Europe, including West Germany, were to be involved in a war. How could such involvement come about? A direct attack on Western Europe by the Soviet Union is not very probable at the moment.

A: I agree completely. Of course one never knows what can happen, acts of lunacy can always occur, but basically in the past decades the Soviet Union has pursued very cautious policies and certainly it would be very imprudent on the Soviet part if they were now to attack Western Europe.

The Soviet Union's interest, if I judge correctly, is to bring Western European economic capacity into close connection with its own economy, ideally of course by political domination or political influence on Western Europe. But this economic interest, which is perhaps vital for the Soviet Union as its own economy is not working well, would not be served if the Soviet Union now suddenly attempted to conquer us by violence. In the process probably destroying the industrial capacity it would need to keep intact.

On the other hand, if the situation is not handled properly, it is conceivable that it could come to this on both sides, even though they know better.

Q: There are those who say that the Third World War has already begun in that the Soviet Union is attempting, not to conquer Western Europe, but to cut off its lifelines, i.e. our raw materials and oil supplies. Assuming that this is what the Soviet Union is trying to do: would you go so far as to say that de facto this would be equivalent to an attack on our country?

A: When we will have seen an attack on our lifelines, we will know that this is not equivalent to an attack on our country. But we should not delude ourselves that the hegemony conflict between the world powers is not going on.

And here the Soviet Union has the chance to put pressure on us by endangering our oil supplies. This is an obvious policy. Indeed much more obvious than a direct attack on us. Such policies are, in principle, possible for the Soviet Union in the next five to ten years.

Q: There are indications that such activity by the Soviet Union is most probable in the next decade.

A: This was my view of matters 10 years ago, although at that time I had no persuasive reasons for this belief and now to my dismay I find that it seems even more likely now that my reasons are far better.

I can attempt to enumerate the reasons: In saying what I am now saying, I do not need to assume that the Soviet Union is especially aggressive. The Russians are good chess players and the Soviet government, as far as it can, deals with the world political situation like a game of chess it wants to win.

My impression is that the situation in the Soviet Union is in many points now far worse than the Soviet leaders expect.

Acts of lunacy can always occur, but basically in the past decades the Soviet Union has pursued very cautious policies... certainly it would be imprudent if they were now to attack Western Europe.

ed perhaps 15 years ago: the economy is in a poor state, economic growth has practically come to a standstill, perhaps there is even negative growth.

Technologically, the USSR cannot catch up with the West. That is clear now. The West remains superior technologically. In the long term, China is a nightmare for them. And they have also lost their ideological influence over socialists throughout the world; I do not know if there are many socialists in the world who still believe that the Soviets are socialists. Quite apart from anyone considering them friends of freedom.

This means that the Soviet position today rests to a large extent on the one thing they have achieved: their great military strength. The Americans have revised their previously conciliatory approach towards the Soviet Union and are now determined to resist the Soviet Union, and to re-arm to do so.

If America wishes, it can in the long run, re-arm more than the Soviet Union. And this means that even the Soviet Union's relative military strength is in danger of disappearing in the next 10 years.

Q: This would mean that if the Soviet Union wanted to act, to derive some benefit from its military strength, it would have to happen in the eighties?

A: This at least seems very likely. I have held this opinion for some time and I see that a large number of people have the same opinion. Henry Kissinger put this point of view recently in a speech in Brussels, for example.

Q: Do you think Afghanistan is a move in this direction?

A: I can imagine that the Soviets invaded Afghanistan because they were afraid that they might lose their position of more or less complete supremacy within Afghanistan. To stick to the chess image, this would simply mean moving a pawn to a more protected position.

But of course no move is made without the game as a whole in mind.

Q: What theoretical possibilities does the Soviet Union have a making political capital out of its military strength?

A: The Soviet Union is today superior to every military power in Asia. And one can imagine that the Soviet Union has many Asiatic interests which it would be prepared to fulfill either by military invasion or the threat of military force.

These range from the difficult question of its relations with China to the Persian Gulf region which because of oil is the most important for us. Economists reckon that the Soviet Union will urgently need Middle East oil itself in the 80s.

Apart from that, if the Soviet Union gained control over Middle East oil not only on the Persian but on the other side of the Gulf then it would have a powerful weapon with which to exert pressure on Japan and on us.

Q: It is difficult to imagine what reaction we in particular and the West in general could make to such a move.

A: I agree it would be very difficult indeed. I think that President Carter's response — giving a kind of guarantee for the Gulf region — will have a deterrent effect on the Soviet Union, whose policies are extremely prudent and who cannot completely rule out an extreme reaction by the United States.

Nonetheless the Soviets have the famous advantage of being on the spot. With its land forces and tank strength the Soviet Union can theoretically march into any country it wants in Asia. It was naive of us to imagine that by guaranteeing the sea routes we could ensure that the oil that has never really belonged to us would go on flowing for us whenever we wanted.

This was a naive policy towards the Arab and Persian nations. And of course it is even more naive in view of the fact that the Russians could cut it off.

Q: So we are very vulnerable here and do not have any immediately apparent means of defending our interests here. Can one put it in these terms?

A: Having mentioned the possible danger points, I don't think we should exaggerate the danger. We are vulnerable here. But we can do something about it.

The Russians are good chess players and the Soviet Government, as far as it can, deals with the world political situation like a game of chess it wants to win.

We can develop other sources of energy, switch to buying oil from other regions and, most important of all, learn to save energy better. But all this is not enough now that we have become so dependent.

On the other hand, an attempt by the Soviet Union to gain real political control over Persian and Arab oil would be a very difficult undertaking. I can imagine that one could — as the French in particular are doing now — pursue policies in the Persian Gulf that tend so strongly towards peace and a balance of power that any political intervention



Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker

(Photo: S&P)
But I cannot rule out such intentions altogether.

Militarily they can do it and invent them by military means as me in Persia at least to be very difficult. It would also be militarily very difficult to prevent them gaining military control of the Arab oilfields and thus cut off our oil supplies.

Q: Peace is not yet lost and today attempts are being made to do what to date has been called 'détente'. But the last few months have shown clearly that with these

I believe that war is a very ancient institution and that it would be naive and naively optimistic to imagine that it is a phenomenon which would cease to exist in our century.

you can only ever get as far as your opponent is prepared to allow you. Now you judge the chances for détente particular after Afghanistan?

A: I have not changed my opinion about détente policies because of Afghanistan. At the beginning of the 70s was a firm advocate of détente policy in the sense in which Kissinger pushed them and in the sense in which the Scheel and Brand pursued them. I still believe this policy was right.

Of course one must know what means by détente. Of course one must not think — that was always a mistake — that we would suddenly become friends with the world power that is as determined as ever to win its chess. The aim was, on the contrary, use the common interest to ensure that the game of chess did not degenerate into death and destruction. This can be done.

The Soviet Union's interest in being, of not being destroyed in a war as great as ever. The error was to interpret that détente meant one was dealing with an enemy whose will without a doubt to rule the world in this sense I would say that détente has not been proved wrong; it just has not been interpreted as it was meant to be interpreted and as intelligent people have interpreted it.

Q: How is it that today when one can imagine the horrors of a war and no one basically wants the dangers of war have increased rather than decreased? What has gone wrong?

A: Well, this is basically a very ranging question. I believe that very ancient human institution and it would be foolish and naively, to imagine that it is a phenomenon which would suddenly cease in our century.

People thought this before 1914

Continued on page 6

■ THE MEDIA

Tension boosts value of broadcasts to Iron Curtain countries

Western radio stations broadcasting to communist countries have doubly benefited from increased tension between East and West: at home people are coming to appreciate more the importance of the broadcasts and in the target countries the thirst for information is growing.

The two American short-wave radio stations in Munich, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, find that after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, West German scepticism about their existence and their work has been reduced considerably thanks to a more realistic assessment of détente policy. And the US authorities are more willing to provide the necessary funds.

The stations have long wanted to improve broadcasting technique and the quality of reception and it looks as if this wish will be fulfilled; there is even talk of a new transmitter on the east coast of the Mediterranean from which it would be easier to reach the central Asiatic parts of the Soviet Union than from the present transmitter in Spain.

Increasing staff numbers at both stations would be equally important but, despite better financial prospects, this is proving difficult — there are just not enough specialists in the 14 non-Russian languages in which Radio Liberty broadcasts to the Soviet Union. The greatest shortage is of experts in the seven languages spoken in the Muslim areas of the Soviet Union.

Shortly after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, special programme services for the Muslim regions were introduced but had to be scratched again after only a few days due to staff shortage.

The basic principles on which these stations operate has not changed since the Afghanistan and Iran crises. The motto remains: "We report on events, we do not make them." Even if there were to be a further escalation in the situation they would not produce sensational or emotive reports.

But the two short-wave stations do have to take into account a greater need for information and a change in mood in the Eastern areas to which they broadcast.

The eastern part of central Europe is well informed about the deterioration of the world political situation and Radio Free Europe realises this.



It is no problem finding out how much the listeners in Poland or Rumania know and what they want further information about. The station simply conducts representative polls among the listeners and acts on the results.

At the moment there is a very definite but also a mixed sense of crisis in the smaller East European States: on the one hand they welcome the fact that America has at last decided to meet the challenge firmly; on the other hand the same listeners are worried about losing the advantages that détente brought them.

They fear restrictions on travel and contacts with foreigners, they expect that the supply situation at home and governmental pressure will increase.

Though many dislike the regimes under which they live, few in East Europe are so passionately determined to resist that they can be indifferent to the definite improvements in their lives in recent years.

Radio Liberty knows far less about the general knowledge, the wishes, opinions and gaps in information of its listeners in the Soviet Union — especially those of the non-Russian nationalities.

And they know virtually nothing

about any specific changes that have taken place since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Nor do they know if the number of their listeners has increased or dropped.

The American news magazine, *Time*, speculated recently that 100 m people in the Soviet Union listen to foreign broadcasts. This estimate is of little real value because many listeners probably listen to several stations: the Munich stations, the Voice of America, the BBC, the Deutsche Welle, and perhaps also Kol Israel as well as Canadian and Swedish stations. The quality of the reception also differs from region to region, and this, too, has to be taken into account.

A Smilzdat (underground) publication recently praised Radio Liberty, but added that it can hardly be heard in the big cities. At the moment, it is the only foreign station deliberately jammed by the Soviet authorities.

So there is no definite information about the level of increase in listeners, though experience shows that more people listen in times of crisis. Careful monitoring of official Soviet news broadcasts, which play down Afghanistan and say nothing about Soviet army involvement, indicate that there is a great need for information.

Sporadic and non-representative polls among listeners have cast interesting light on the way citizens of different

regions react to official Soviet news broadcasts: the Russian population is more inclined to believe the Moscow version of events than the Soviet army was called into and amicably received in Afghanistan than the population of the Baltic states, the Ukraine, and Georgia.

In places such as Riga, Kiev and Tbilisi where the Red Army quashed attempts at independence, what is happening in Afghanistan seems all too familiar. Criticism of the Russian intervention is greater here.

On the other hand, no one knows how great the criticism is in the Muslim regions of central Asia.

Some western correspondents who have been there have produced reports on the mood there but most of their information has come from official sources. The stereotype answer from these sources was: "The events in Iran have no effect on our region."

What could be true is that the Muslims in the central Asian republics of the Soviet Union look down on the Afghans and regard them as primitive. It could also be true that the intelligentsia in the Soviet Muslim regions, which is not very religious, has little time for Islamic fundamentalism.

However, it is possible that the events in Iran and Afghanistan have had an effect on the cultural sense of identity and have thus led to solidarity. This is the view at Radio Liberty, though they admit that this is pure speculation.

The West knows nothing about the views of the people in the Muslim regions of the Soviet Union. All Radio Liberty can do is to keep on providing information and hope that it satisfies what they believe is a great need.

Ernst-Otto Maetke

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 April 1980)

Psychology of an uncertain world

Continued from page 4

they were wrong. And they thought this after 1945 and were wrong again. The long-term task of humanity must be to overcome war and I believe this problem can be solved but it cannot be solved if only the old sovereign powers continue to exist and threaten one another with weapons that are so awesome that they are afraid to use them.

We have seen how things go: there are continually wars in the Third World, because they know that no atomic weapons will be used there. New types of weapons for limited use are continually being developed and as a result war has become more probable.

I think that people underestimated the amount of persuasion and effort it is going to take when they said that there would not be any more wars because we now have nuclear weapons.

Q: So the solution can only be a new world order?

A: Yes, I suspect this is true. But at the moment this is so far away that I would not even like to speculate what it might be like.

Q: You said some years ago that mere rational pacifism, i.e. a mere realisation of the need for peace, did not get us very far. You said at the time that the will to war was "in the depths of the human soul."

A: I believe that our aggressions to a large extent are an escape from our aggressions towards ourselves, towards our dissatisfaction with ourselves and with others. And then it is amazingly easy to look at the enemy outside and say that he is to blame and we have to do something against him.

If you say that we cannot bring about peace by ourselves I would answer that we can and should try to work against the disquiet and dissatisfaction within ourselves. This is a task which we can and should devote ourselves to. And here the only thing that really counts is that we should try not to delude ourselves.

Perhaps one can best be forced into not deluding oneself, by a terrible shock

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which brings home to us that we cannot go on living in and with our illusions.

So perhaps this shock which you spoke of at the beginning a positive thing in this respect. It should lead not to panic but to soul-searching. Finally, however, and anyone who has had anything to do with religion knows this, the solution to the effort to live at peace with oneself and with others is not in our power, yet it is something which happens nonetheless, a kind of grace.

Q: Is what you are saying not based ultimately upon the concept described in Christian theology as the peace of God?

A: Yes, I say unto thee. But I would like to avoid a misunderstanding here. I don't want anyone to say that politics

I think that people underestimated the amount of persuasion and effort it is going to take when they said that there would not be any more wars because we now have nuclear weapons.

cannot provide the answer so I am fleeing to God because God is always there for those who do not know how to go on. This is not what I mean.

What I mean and what I have on occasion said is that every peace is "the body of a truth." And the name of God denotes among other things the truth which man can find out about himself if he is prepared to open his mind and heart to a power greater than himself. And only when possessed of this truth can one have the courage to look things in the eye and only in this courage can one preserve real peace.

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 2 May 1980)

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■ THE ECONOMY

Predictions take on less pessimistic mood



The Federal Republic of Germany is not heading for an economic crisis, reports by the Bundesbank and the five major economic research institutes in the country make clear.

The joint assessment of the institutes, which predicts a slight bottleneck rather than anything more serious, contrast with their forecasts in October last year, when they went overboard in their pessimism.

In addition, a leading industrialist says that the economy is much more buoyant than the media are picturing it.

What causes insecurity is not so much the contrasts in the overall economic picture but external factors — primarily those of a political nature.

The events in Iran, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the rapidly deteriorating relations between the superpowers cannot fail to affect the economy. But there is no need to raise even worse specters.

As Toni Schmücker, chief executive of Volkswagen put it, there is no way of steering a chaos anyway.

The fact is that the public and the business community react to crises with much more equanimity than they did only a few years ago.

Our excellent growth rate in the first quarter of this year and the brisk business at the major spring trade fairs combined with the growth carried over from last year make the government growth target of 2.5 per cent for 1980 perfectly feasible, the institutes say in their latest report.

Yet the business community is fully

aware of the dangers ahead. In other words, everybody recognises the tricky situation but everybody also refuses to make this the basis on which to act.

Two examples: The VV concern plans investments of DM10bn for the period from 1980 to 1982; and a leading spokesman of Germany's savings banks has said that the demand for credit is undiminished.

Clearly, the business community is undaunted in its planning for the 1980s, and though it realises the burdens imposed by the energy problem it sees this as a challenge.

The Bundesbank is also cautiously optimistic in its annual report. It expects the growth rate to diminish slightly but its general assessment of the economy is positive. And even the Institute for the German Economy, echoing the Chamber of Industry, stresses that 1980 will be a good year by and large.

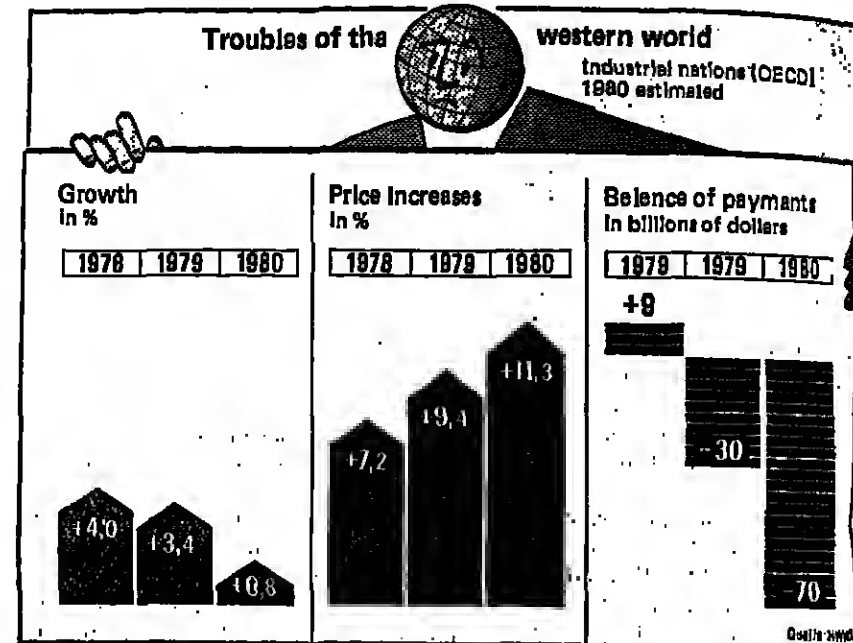
And all in all, the tenor of all these assessments is that, notwithstanding international instability, we must make full use of growth opportunities.

All this has nothing to do with an ostrich attitude. After all, the business community is fully aware of the gravity of the events in the Middle East and the possible effects of further oil price increases by Opec.

It is also aware of the problems at home such as our growing balance of payments deficit, galloping state debt and the still unchecked inflation. The latter has just been underscored by the Bundesbank's latest increase of interest rates.

But these problems cannot be over-looked by lamentation. They call for determined action.

A major bank made it clear recently



that it depends on the internal structure and attitude of a national economy whether and how it will react to external setbacks.

This also includes the right reaction to the oil price shock and the political upheavals in general.

Given such a bleak backdrop, it is not

surprising that the mood appears to be worse than the situation warrants.

But the very fact that political stability and economic setbacks have no unfazed shows that the German economy is about to put its full weight on the teetering scales of a world in crisis.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 4 May 1980)

Approval for decision to increase bank interest rates

The latest Bundesbank decision to increase the discount and lombard rates while at the same time improving the liquidity of banks is generally seen as sound and balanced. Only the trade unions have criticised the move.

The increase of the discount rate from 7 to 7.5 per cent and the lombard rate from 8.5 to 9.5 per cent came as a surprise. Interest rates have thus reached the highest level since July 1970. But at the same time the Bundesbank released DM4bn, adding to the banks' liquidity.

The aim of this added liquidity is to compensate for the outflow of capital to

foreign countries, which, it is estimated, will reach about DM20bn by the end of this month.

Until now, the banks have had to sort to lombard credits for liquidity. But, according to Bundesbank President Pöhl, the central bank does not want lombard credits to become a permanent instrument of liquidity.

This is the reason why the central bank has released some of its funds. The banks must keep on interest-free deposits with it.

Such a release of funds alone, Pöhl said, would have been misunderstood as a monetary all-clear signal — especially in view of the fact that German interest rates had begun to go down. The wake of the drastic interest rate reductions in the United States.

He stressed that there was absolutely no reason to sound the all-clear. On the contrary, the Bundesbank differs with the economic research institutes as to the further development of inflation, which it regards with concern.

Monetary developments, Herr Pöhl says, also preclude giving the all-

clear signal. There is no reason to take the foot off the brakes as some economic research institutes have recommended.

The Bundesbank holds that the increase in the lending rate in May does not endanger the economy. Though Pöhl considers reduced growth rates probable in the second half of the year, it is by no means certain.

Demands, he says, is considerable more buoyant than was expected. Economic growth is more likely to be the 3 per cent mark than the 2.5 per cent forecast by Bonn.

Clas Durbin

(Die Welt, 2 May 1980)

Growth target is realistic, say researchers



Still, they will take their toll, as borne out by two sets of figures. The economists estimate that we will chalk up a balance of payments deficit of DM25bn this year rather than the "mere" DM20bn estimated earlier. This enormous deficit, which we can only balance

by borrowing abroad or dipping into our currency reserves, is due to the fact that our oil bill in 1980 will rise from DM49bn in 1979 to DM75bn.

As a result, the nation's income, adjusted for inflation, will show no rise at all this year. After all, the additional DM26bn which we shall have to pay to the Opec countries will not be available for distribution at home.

This is borne out by the relation between the inflation rate and the wage increases this year: once adjusted for inflation, incomes will remain the same as in 1979.

In other words, the increased productivity this year as a result of rationalisation measures will simply flow into Opec coffers. The only way of preventing this is for each of us to cut down on fuel consumption as much as possible.

But all these forecasts will only come true if nothing unexpected and untoward happens. No economist can foretell what the Gulf states have in store for us.

Michael Jungblut

(Die Zeit, 2 May 1980)

■ RAW MATERIALS

Stockpile plan drawn up as a guard against supply failure



Plans to stockpile raw materials as insurance against shortages have been drawn up by the Bonn Government in conjunction with industry.

The project was prompted by fears over lack of continuity in supply. "Millions of jobs in jeopardy" read a headline in the conservative daily *Die Welt* recently. The reason given by the paper was that Moscow was trying to grab the world's raw materials.

The authors of such news items have the relevant figures at their fingertips. According to one of them, a 3 per cent setback of chrome imports alone would endanger 6.8m jobs. A similar supply gap for manganese and asbestos would lead to another 14m redundancies, wrote *Die Welt*.

Alleged secret studies commissioned by the Bonn government are cited as the source of these figures. But a closer look reveals these studies as far less alarming than the authors would have us believe.

Such warnings are as exaggerated as we some of the hopes pinned on national raw materials stockpiles.

It is as untrue that, given fairly calculable conditions, our economy would collapse due to inadequate raw materials supplies as it is unlikely that stockpiles would decisively contribute to making our economic future more secure.

A contract for the creation of such stockpiles — enough to secure our chrome, manganese, vanadium, cobalt and asbestos requirements for one year — has been ready for signature for some time, industry and the Bonn government having come to terms in principle after much haggling over financing.

If all goes according to plan we shall have made provision for a rainy day. Such an arrangement would emulate the United States, which has gone furthest in stockpiling raw materials. It has even ensured an adequate supply of feathers.

By providing DM600m at extremely favourable interest rates, the Bundesbank is contributing towards this national acquiring action as will the Bonn Government, which is to set aside DM51m over the next three years.

Industry will fork out the same amount — on top of the actual cost of the raw materials.

Let those responsible for the deal — especially in Bonn — know that should a supply bottleneck arise these stockpiles would be of little use. But they have every reason to hope that the contingency will not arise.

Let us take chrome as an example. More than 60 per cent of our requirements comes from South Africa, a country whose political future is anything but easy. Another 12 per cent comes from the Soviet Union.

Should one of these countries be unable and the other unwilling to supply this commodity in adequate quantities the consequences would be unsettling to say the least.

Only 4 to 5 per cent of the chrome shortfall could be offset, though not easily. Certain alloys could be made with manganese or vanadium instead of

chrome, but these metals are also listed as sensitive.

The same applies to cobalt: only 16 per cent of our annual needs could be substituted. But there is no way of substituting cobalt in certain special types of steel. According to the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs, this could only be done at the cost of quality, if at all.

The situation regarding manganese is similar. Only 3.5 per cent could be replaced in the first year of a shortfall. One of the substitute elements is titanium which will not be stockpiled although it was in short supply last year because the Soviets refused to sell.

The reason for the Kremlin's move, security experts say, was of a military nature. The Economic Affairs Ministry, on the other hand, says that the Kremlin did not deliver because of inadequate processing capacities.

But all these contingency scenarios have three major shortcomings:

- They underestimate the suppliers' (regardless whether their system is capitalist or communist) vested interest in the lucrative sale of such commodities;

- They also underestimate the ability of industry and consumers alike to react to rising prices by changing their requirements;

- They disregard the fact that new deposits are being found constantly and that more and more raw materials are recycled the more prices rise.

Despite growing consumption, copper production has increased four-fold within the past few years. The incentive provided by dramatically rising prices made this possible.

It is in keeping with this "static" way of looking at things that Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer is considering doing away with chromium-plated fenders on cars should there be a shortage.

The Economic Affairs Ministry sees things in a different and "dynamic" light: "Should tin become in short supply and expensive nobody will want to buy tin soldiers."

The situation with fenders would be similar: even a poor market can always be expected to be more creative than a lawmaker.

Seen in this light, the establishment of national stockpiles appears less im-

portant than its advocates (among them Herr Matthöfer) seem to believe. But on the other hand — and this might sound paradoxical — the envisaged stockpiles are too small.

Even if business and consumers will react sensibly to shortages and rising prices they should be given more time to come up with new production methods and to get used to the new products. One year is simply too little.

Geologists search for local uranium sources

Geologists are optimistic that commercially viable amounts of uranium can be found in West Germany.

Some 150 experts are scouring the country, unworried by anti-nuclear protesters, with hopes that somewhere under German corn and potato fields, they will find the fuel for the nation's reactors.

The most productive deposits in Germany so far were found a few years ago in the Black Forest and in the hilly countryside between Baden-Baden and Gernsbach, a resort town.

Saarberg-Interplan GmbH, a subsidiary of Saarbergwerke AG, has for the past five years been prospecting in the Black Forest and the Upper Palatinate, hoping to find the uranium which we now import from the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

While the antinukes managed to stop prospecting in some areas of Baden-Württemberg, they have been unsuccessful in Bavaria.

The Bavarian part of the Upper Palatinate has become the headquarters of the Saarberg-Interplan GmbH prospectors. They have settled in the tiny village of Gmütz (pop. 100).

Ever since special helicopters and other aircraft equipped with geiger counters found "radioactive anomalies", 15 geologists have been criss-crossing the Gmütz region in search of uranium.

They use geiger counters and the much more accurate scintillometers (costing DM15,000 each).

Several drills have also been sunk in

According to Dieter von Würzen of the Economic Affairs Ministry, we should allow at least 2½ years to find a reasonable substitute for chrome or cobalt.

Stockpiles that would be large enough to give us time to find substitutes would certainly provide more security without costing too much more.

Only a year ago, wolfram was considered particularly sensitive because it is used in light bulbs and without it we would be groping in the dark. But new types of bulbs are now ready to roll off the assembly lines — bulbs without wolfram and much more economical than the conventional version.

It seems that important raw materials need only be in short supply to make them redundant.

Dieter Piel

(Die Zeit, 2 May 1980)



promising spots. But after dozens of such drilling tests the geologists have found that the deposits are too small to make their exploitation viable.

Only when experts are confident that they have found a fairly large area where they can get one kilo of uranium per ton of rock will drilling to depths of up to 300 metres become worthwhile. Promising samples will then be sent to the Saarberg-Interplan headquarters in Saarbrücken for analysis. But even then, nine out of ten such exploratory drillings will prove commercially unviable.

Despite all setbacks, Saarberg-Interplan has discovered considerable deposits worth exploiting. In fact, in the corn and potato fields of the Schwandorf district of Bavaria pieces of uranium ore can be picked up by anybody, and a few kilometers further along, at the foot of the Schirmberg mountain near Altenhof, local miners have sunk a 250-meter exploratory shaft into the mountain.

Apart from the usual heimat, the miners wear no protective clothing because the shaft is so well ventilated that radiation from the fluorescent uranium ore is within tolerance limits. The miners carry special phosphor pellets and film strips in their clothing. These are delivered once a month to special laboratories to assess the amount of radiation.

So far, it has been established that the radiation to which the miners are exposed is only one-twentieth of the amount still considered safe.

Up to now, Saarberg-Interplan has obtained 765 tons of uranium ore which yielded 105 kilos of uranium for experimental purposes. The decision whether to proceed with a large-scale exploitation in Bavaria will not be made before the end of 1983.

No uranium will be mined in the Black Forest for the time being because many citizens fear that this would turn the famous spa, Baden-Baden, into a mining town.

The villagers in the Bavarian part of the Upper Palatinate, on the other hand, who are accustomed to mining anyway, have nothing against uranium mines. They mix freely and amiably with the prospectors, whom they meet regularly in the local pub.

Udo Lorenz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 April 1980)

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RESEARCH

Death of last member of nuclear fission pioneer team

Research chemist Fritz Strassmann, the sole surviving member of a team of scientists who discovered nuclear fission over a four-year period in the 30s, has died aged 78 at Mainz University Hospital.

The others were radiochemist Otto Hahn, head of the Kaiser Wilhelm Chemistry Institute in Berlin, and nuclear physicist Lise Meitner, in charge of physics at the Berlin Institute.

Strassmann was an analytical chemist who read his chemistry at Hanover, spent a spell as assistant to Hermann Braune and joined the staff of the Berlin Institute in 1929, gaining additional qualifications as a radiochemist.

It was Strassmann's outstanding analytical knowledge and ability that prompted Hahn and Meitner at the end of 1934 to ask him to join them in their work on the substances generated by

difficulties in the wake of a provocative appointment.

But Hahn set great store by Strassmann and the ability he alone showed in proving the existence and identifying short-lived by products of uranium bombardment despite the feeble radiation sources at their disposal.

Their research swiftly produced fresh results that seemed to indicate the existence of an entire series of isomeric transuranic elements with even higher numbers than those already known.

Physicists were sceptical but readily acknowledged the bona fides of Hahn, Meitner, Strassmann and their work. They had in fact misinterpreted their findings (but were bound to do so given what was known about nuclear physics at the time).

But this was not realised until the end of 1938, by which time Frau Meitner

had been obliged by the *Anschluss* of Austria to emigrate to Sweden. From Stockholm she corresponded with Hahn and Strassmann and thereby maintained contact with the project, promoting it even by criticising new findings that were most improbable in energy terms. After bombardment of uranium with what were called thermic (slow-speed) neutrons the lighter elements thorium, actinium and radium seemed to result.

But Hahn and Strassmann finally identified as a fission product what they had first thought to be radium. They had succeeded in splitting the uranium atom into two lighter atomic nuclei.

This accomplishment was remarkable, and not only because of the consequences of peaceful and military use of atomic energy, which was what they had unearthed.

Strassmann and Hahn were both strictly opposed to military use of nuclear power. But Strassmann was all in favour of its peaceful use provided adequate safety precautions were undertaken and highly qualified, well paid staff hired.

What was so remarkable about their discovery of how to split the atom was that it had not been planned or in any way predictable; it was strictly the result of unprejudiced and carefully repeated radiochemical and analytical experiments.

Physicists may have had some theoretical ideas on nuclear fission that subsequently enabled Lise Meitner and her nephew O. R. Frisch to explain the phenomenon.

But despite their scepticism about previous findings they had not been able to envisage nuclear fission in even the vaguest terms.

Thus it took chemical experiments to open up new vistas for nuclear physics, but these experiments were themselves the result of work undertaken jointly with a physicist, Frau Meitner.

So in 1966 all three were rightly awarded the Enrico Fermi Prize for work leading to the discovery of nuclear fission, whereas Hahn alone had been awarded the 1944 Nobel chemistry prize for discovering the fission of heavy nuclei.

Hahn later regretted having been singled out. He said Strassmann's contribution had been so substantial that they ought really to have shared the Nobel Prize.

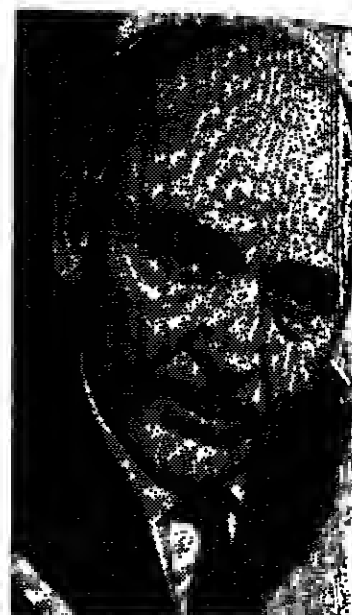
Fritz Strassmann was always sceptical about awards of this kind, feeling progress invariably depended on the work of others too, and he was never unduly keen to be honoured himself.

Only someone who had never met him could possibly suspect Strassmann of lamenting having missed out on a Nobel Prize. Yet such allegations had been made of late.

He would, on the other hand, have accepted the Nobel Prize if, like the Fermi Prize, it had been awarded to the entire Berlin research team.

He also gladly accepted freedom of the city of Mainz in 1972, taking it to be less a personal award than in recognition of his decades of work to restore Mainz University's academic credentials.

Mainz was his home for the longest period in his life. The Kaiser Wilhelm Institute was evacuated to Taifingen in 1944 and between 1946 and 1949 re-established under his aegis in Mainz.



Fritz Strassmann

In mid-1945 he was awarded the chemistry prize at Mainz University. He took over as head of the chemistry department. At the same time he became head of chemistry at Taifingen. Negotiations in connection with re-establishment of the erstwhile Kaiser Wilhelm, later Max Planck Institute, Mainz continued until 1951.

From 1950 to 1953 he was an academic member of the Max Planck Society and deputy director of its Mainz division.

But in 1953 he pulled out of the Max Planck Society to continue on his university department of organic and analytical chemistry and nuclear chemistry, which had thus far been lectured by the university authorities.

The department's laboratories

Continued on page 9

THE ENVIRONMENT

Probe into link between where you live and health

People in heavily built-up urban or industrial areas are sure to run the gamut of a wide range of environmental hazards both at work and at leisure, such as noise, exhaust fumes and dirt. Labour specialists, doctors and town planners are all keen to solutions to a healthier environment.

Hazards include traffic noise and exhaust fumes, industrial dust and regional climate changes, all directly affecting the health.

Some people also suffer from the continuing constraints imposed by cramped accommodation or thin dividing walls between one apartment and the next.

In high-rise housing estates sheer isolation from the neighbours may likewise prove a problem. Its affect varies from one person to the next but a persistent feeling of uneasiness can prove devastating.

Longing for a better environment can lead to serious physical and mental ill-health of a kind it is extremely difficult to shake off.

Research findings and patients' case histories demonstrate to doctors time and again the influence home, the domestic environment and work can have on health.

The Friedrich Thieling Foundation, associated with the Hartmannbund, a West German medical association, has paid special attention to these and related issues.

So has the Housing and Town and Country Planning Association. Between them these two sponsor periodic Bonn conferences on Building and Health.

They are held to show up links between the two and to make the public more keenly aware of the connection between pollution and ill-health.

Living Value, Leisure Value, Health Value — Urban Renewal in City Centres and Suburbs was the subject of the second Bonn conference.

Christian Farenholtz of the Housing and Development Association, Hamburg, was one of the speakers. He explained to non-planners in his audience what criteria he went by in his work.

From the start he put paid to any ideas of planning the ideal home or environment. Planning, he said, was strictly a means of standardising the requirements of the individual in an age of electronics.

These were demand, or what housing and areas were given market preference, and requirements, or the quality of some life society was prepared to allow the individual.

This was a matter of size and quality

Continued from page 8

not completed until 1967, however, so he was no longer able to use them for research of his own.

But he concentrated mainly on teaching in any case, and in setting aside research on his own behalf he was able to avoid and indelible influence on hundreds of young chemists who are now in industry, teaching and at university themselves.

This achievement may well rank alongside an individual accomplishment comparable with the discovery of nuclear fission. Fritz Strassmann certainly found fulfilment in teaching. Fritz Kraft

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 24 April 1980)

So in heavy-traffic areas parks are not only important as green lungs, or suppliers of oxygen, but also urgently needed to keep dust at bay.

At Frankfurt main railway station morning, noon and evening dust counts were 16,830, 18,310 and 17,640 particles per litre of air.

In a nearby park the corresponding figures were 3,260, 1,180 and 3,140 particles per litre.

Gutacker was particularly scathing in his comments on the Bonn local authorities. They knew better, he said, but persisted in giving planning permission for buildings that impeded ventilation of the narrow Rhine valley from side valleys and via winds that blew parallel to the river.

Karl Ganser of the Federal Town and Country Planning Research Institute, Bad Godesberg, based his argument on the hypothesis that city air no longer made the person who breathed it free; it made him ill.

Mental health in particular was in jeopardy in built-up areas. Mental disorders were frequently due to stress occasioned by the constraints of living in cramped confines.

In apartments that were too small there was no way in which members of the family could escape each other. Privacy was at a premium, especially as the least noise disturbed the neighbours.

Alterations to rented accommodation were usually prohibited. Many tenants were worried they could be served notice to quit at any time now that landlords could claim they needed apartments for their own use.

People were already regimented more than enough at work. Now they were beginning to be regimented at home too.

So for health reasons town and country planners ought, he surprisingly concluded, to aim at reducing population density and to persuade conurbation-dwellers to move out into the suburbs.

If only local authorities and regional planners cooperated in this relocation there need not necessarily be misdevelopment as a result.

There was then a platform debate between theorists and practitioners in which the latter ran rings round dreams of a humane living environment by pointing out that in reality economic yardsticks were the almost exclusive consideration. Birgit Krummacker

(Kölnner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 May 1980)

High cost of damage from atmospheric pollution

Atmospheric pollution causes damage to property in the Federal Republic estimated at several billion deutsche marks a year, according to the Federal Environment Office, West Berlin.

This was the finding of a survey of the cost commissioned from Dortmund University department of environmental protection.

It tentatively costed atmospheric pollution damage to buildings and works of art, to materials, buildings, high-voltage wires and agriculture.

Damage to buildings was estimated at roughly DM2.5bn a year, material corrosion at between DM1bn and DM2bn a year and the cost to the individual of cleaning and maintenance at approximately DM730m per annum.

Yield and quality losses in agriculture were estimated to amount to DM125m a year or so.

But these figures did not take long-term ecological damage into account;

they also paid no attention to the follow-up cost of health shortcomings.

According to an OECD estimate, however, the overall damage must be put at three to five per cent of GNP, annual losses of between DM40bn and DM70bn in Bonn's case.

The toll of historic monuments and works of art is particularly high. Comparison with turn-of-century photographs shows that environmental depredations have increased.

Essential repairs to Cologne Cathedral are costed at DM3m a year, plus DM60m to DM80m on facade renewal between now and the end of the century.

Statisticians count as part of the cost the extra expense conurbation-dwellers are put to by having to travel further to recreation areas.

For a city the size of Munich this extra cost item is estimated at DM67m a year.

(Die Welt, 3 May 1980)



Rescue party at a decontamination point during the simulated nuclear fallout catastrophe at the Biblis nuclear power station. (Photo: dpa)

Nuclear fallout dummy run

It was emergency action stations at Biblis nuclear power station, the largest in Europe, over the first weekend in May when a fallout disaster was simulated.

In the first dummy run of its kind ever undertaken jointly by the emergency services of neighbouring *Länder*, there was assumed to have been a pipe burst in the A block reactor that knocked out the cooling system and led to nuclear fallout being emitted via the chimneystack.

There were communication difficulties between radiation experts whose job was to assess the fallout danger and members of staff whose chief previous concern with radioactivity had been from a deskbound vantage point.

Hesse's Lothar Bergmann put it this way: "There were not only pleasant surprises. We learnt a tremendous amount."

At Heppenheim operations centre in neighbouring Rhineland-Palatinate officials concluded that emergency planning was too theoretical at a number of junctures.

The general public were not included in this first major fallout exercise, and it was just as well. Problems arose from the start and all concerned agreed that further exercises were urgently needed.

Hesse Interior Minister Ekkehard Gries said the operation would not even have run as smoothly as it did if everyone concerned had not been given advance warning.

If fallout had been a fact as simulated, 50,000 people in Hesse and 10,000 in the Rhineland-Palatinate would have been in immediate danger of contamination.

They would not have learnt of their plight via radio and loudspeaker van for a good half hour after the alarm was sounded. What then might have happened was not simulated.

But operations commands came to the conclusion that civilians would need to be evacuated earlier than planned. At present even residents of Biblis know little more than that in an emergency they should return home and tune in to the radio.

(dpa)

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 5 May 1980)

EXHIBITIONS

Keeping the time all through the ages

The Bavarian National Museum is celebrating its 125th anniversary with an exhibition on The World as Clock.

From November, the "Clockwork Universe" will then be taken to America and shown in the Washington Museum of History and Technology.

The exhibits are priceless, but their insurance value is DM40m. Many of the more than 100 table clocks in the exhibition once belonged to German Kaisers, were stolen during the Thirty Years' War and dispersed all over the globe. Most of the 57 on loan come from abroad.

Some owners sent their clocks only on condition that they be restored or made to work again. So, long before the exhibition opened a goldsmith, a furniture restorer, a complex materials specialist and a clockmaker were working on the clock-faces and the clockwork.

An instrument maker was called in to help them get a trumpet clock built in 1582 by Hans Schlottheim going again.

The clock's music was reconstructed by mechanically simulating the sequence of tones with compressed air. The music was recorded and can be heard in the museum now, but the delicate clock remains safely under glass, the 11 little figures of a miniature court orchestra, the trumpeters trumpeting and the drummer playing a tiny drum.

Duke Wilhelm V of Bavaria, a great patron of the arts, gave this clock to Archduke Ferdinand II of Austria as a wedding present. These musical clocks were very popular at court. Some could even be rolled over the table when they were being wound up.

The aim of the exhibition, however, is not just to show a collection of expensive timepieces and princely toys. The artistic table clocks made in Germany between 1550 and 1650 were also symbols of their age, the period of the Reformation; early status symbols, ideals of harmony and order in a divided society, allegories of man, the state and the world — and furthermore the most impressive works of engineering before the invention of the steam engine.

Clockmakers helped develop steering mechanisms for cannon bore mills and mine drainage systems.

German master clockmakers, especially in the free towns in the south, were leaders in this technology which used the principle of escapement and later elastic springs instead of weights (until Galileo, then almost blind, designed the first pendulum as regulator in 1637).

The history of these clockmakers, mostly protestants, is well known and documented in the city and guild archives. (Now also exhaustively documented in the thorough catalogue of the Munich and Washington exhibitions.)

We read for example that in 1611 Archduke Ferdinand of Austria gave the Augsburg miniature clockmaker and mayor's son Georg Frommiller, 25 guilders as payment "for a clock inside a tortoise shell".

Two examples of this tortoiseshell clock still exist, one in the Vienna Museum of Art History, the other in the Hesse Land Museum in Darmstadt, which loaned the clock for the exhibition.

The tortoise shell clock moves, the

tortoise's head goes backwards and forwards and on its shell it bears a rider whose arms also move.

Frommiller, who also worked in France, in Italy, at the court of the Elector in Cologne and at the Prague court, was imprisoned for murder in Augsburg in 1616 and then exiled for 10 years.

Archduke Ferdinand, later to become Kaiser, had vainly tried to have Frommiller pardoned and later appointed him court clockmaker in Vienna.

No one knows who invented the clockwork clock as first seen about 1320 on church towers.

Peter Henlein, born in 1480 produced the famous Nuremberg Egg, a pocket watch which sold in its thousands, but he is not such an important figure in the history of clockmaking as the school text books once made him out to be. His 500th anniversary this year has virtually been ignored.

Artistic clocks made in Germany were a popular export article right into the baroque.

The Vienna court and other princely houses sent all kinds of clocks with moving figures, some with oriental motifs, to Turkish sultans — in the hope that the gifts would please them and make them think twice about attacking them.

Jesuits brought the tiny machines to China as a kind of advertisement for the Christian West. Those who could make such objects, they argued must have the better faith.

Our industrial fairs today no doubt a similar purpose.

Rarely have beauty and mechanical precision been so successfully combined as in these clocks.

Their main function was not that of telling the time. Earlier systems, such as sand, sun, water and fire clocks were

much more accurate and continued to be used, even up to today, the age of digital and atomic clocks. And of course clocks were often disguised as vases, columns or mirrors. The variety of the "indications" is certainly comparable with our multi-function clocks.

One Nuremberg figure clock, for instance, told not only the hours and the minutes but also the date, the saint's day, months, signs of the zodiac, length of day and night. It also had an alarm, and a procession of Bacchus with tiny enamel figures.

Another master produced a kind of stop-watch, in about 1585, Josef Bürgl of Kassel, the most brilliant clockmaker of them, all constructed a clock which only needed winding once every three months.

Hans Busehmann of Augsburg made for Duke August of Braunschweig a table-clock crowned with a sphere which was meant to go for a whole year. A clock-maker later called in to repair it found that it was rather "sleepy".

Another clock by an unknown master even told the days on which the planets were favourable to blood-letting.

The highpoint of clockmaking was the complicated and artistic planetariums and heavenly globes. The Thirty Years' War brought all this fine work to an abrupt end.

Wilhelm IV, landgrave of Hesse, always took with him on his travels a 56 cm globe made by Eberhard Baldewein of Marburg — so that he could work out the longitude and latitude of the fixed stars. Dr. Klaus Maurice, organizer of the Munich exhibition and one of the world's leading experts on clocks, persuaded a private owner in London to lend this globe for the Munich exhibition. "It is the same with the world as with the clock," wrote Christian Wolff. This is the motto of the exhibition. The clock became a model: the cogwheels were seen as the parts of the universe, the hands were the events and changes in the world. According to the *Zellgeist*, everything in life would be ordered and regulated like clockwork. Animals and human beings were also seen in these terms. Automatic

figures known as androids were put ed. Their souls were of clockwork. They were the first robots.

Some of these clocks represented the Soviet Union. There were only two cases in which subject and nationality could be combined in films from West Germany and the Soviet Union.

being lashed on the stroke of a clock. Others mark the hours by the ringing of Mary's crown or the beating of a heart. This many seem naive, as if the raising or even blasphemous of modern mind.

Scenes with moving animals are charming, especially when accompanied by music. We see whole planets about 10 pounce. A unicorn scurries about on the ground, a camel pulls a carriage, birds lift their wings.

The mechanistic age regarded the clock, with its order and regularity, the model of the perfect, autonomous state. Kepler spoke of the "music machine" which was not a divine but a clock.

Frederick the Great wished that states based on these rules would be a clock. And his friend Voltaire, who consistently saw God as a clockmaker, decided to take a *Trip to Enckebach* to the grave of an alleged terrorist. As a driver's chain, birds lift their wings. result he gets entangled in the strange system of the terrorist manhunt.

Gipsies in Duisburg is a grim social documentary on gipsies who, after surviving Nazi concentration camps, are now pursued and persecuted as an undesirable minority.

Taken together these three films give a lively picture of West Germany today.

Roswitha Ziegler's film could fit in with this subject. Entitled *Vom Himmel fall ich auf die Erde und merke a clock*. And his friend Voltaire, who consistently saw God as a clockmaker, decided to take a *Trip to Enckebach* to the grave of an alleged terrorist. As a driver's chain, birds lift their wings. result he gets entangled in the strange system of the terrorist manhunt.

Following her documentary on Gorkle, the proposed site of a huge atomic power complex, Roswitha Ziegler has produced an intellectually brilliant science-fiction satire in which the real and the unreal, dream and reality intermingle.

The viewer, at first bemused, gradually begins to find his way about in this film-labyrinth, only to find at the end this feeling of security is a delusion.

In recent years lively and realistic documentary films have often been shown, depicting the stiff, bureaucratically self-distilled too overtly didactic or propaganda-filled film. The four Soviet films shown at Oberhausen were all superb and the festival was lucky to be able to show them. The two best of these could be considered for prizes by the international jury as they had already won prizes elsewhere.

Reports about People would be a pos-

THE CINEMA

Short-film festival develops less controversial image

The nature of the Oberhausen short film festival has changed over the years. In its early years, the festival, which saw itself as having a political as well as an aesthetic function, was often derided for left-wing tendencies.

There were even threats to cut essential subsidies from Bonn and the *Länder*. It did not deter the organisers from unpromisingly pursuing their course.

However, in recent years the controversy had died down, not because the organisers have changed their policies but because the role and importance of the short film has changed.

In recent years, Oberhausen and the films shown there have become less politically controversial. Last year was the exception. This year, though, there has been a welcome recovery. The programme contained a number of lively films.

The selection committee is to thank for it. It abandoned the traditional method of choosing films from various countries, concentrating instead on thematic aspects.

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16th century clock from southern Germany.

(Photo: C. G. G.)



Josef Bürgl's clock, made in about 1585, which needed winding only every three months.



A scene from 'Gipsies in Duisburg'.

(Photo: Westdeutsche Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen)

Franz Josef Strauss's leading role in 'Der Kandidat'

Franz Josef Strauss, the Shadow Chancellor, is the star of a film, *Der Kandidat*, which had its premiere this month in West German cinemas.

But he is a reluctant star. The CSU did everything it could to make life difficult for the camera team. On three occasions it was refused permission to film and once it was thrown out of an election meeting.

The film is a joint effort by four directors: Stefan Aust, Alexander von Eschwege, Alexander Kluge and Volker Schlöndorff. Their political commitment firmly stamps this film, a critical look at West Germany in the run up to the general election this autumn.

This film is unique in its own way. It aims not only to document 30 years of Franz Josef Strauss's career but, through him, to look back at the political history of the Federal Republic of Germany. Strauss's appearances are part of Germany present, an expression of West German political culture.

Here the four directors produce images of concentrated and oppressive intensity: at the CSU's Ash Wednesday meeting in Passau in Bavaria, at the Airmen's Ball in Karlsruhe (where at the same time the Ecologists are holding a conference) or following president Carstens on his ramble through West Germany.

The images of Germany these pictures give force to ask: Is this the kind of state in which we want to live?

The film's weakness, is its failure to provide a satisfactory answer. Franz Josef Strauss is not solely responsible for this country's political culture. Certainly he is one of the main actors on the political stage — and also one of the most talented, a persuasive, able wielder of language, as the film shows.

But to restrict our political culture to Franz Josef Strauss, to concentrate on him alone, is to make him what he must not be: the political super-figure of this country.

This is to do *Der Kandidat* too great an honour.

Heinz Verfurth

(Kölnische Rundschau, 19 April 1980)



The four directors of 'Der Kandidat' (from left) Volker Schlöndorff, Stefan Aust, Alexander Kluge and Alexander von Eschwege.

(Photo: Filmverband der Autoren)

CRIME

Allegations of Mafia involvement in large-scale offences

The Mafia were promptly blamed when a steel doorway at Bendeht prison, Wuppertal, was blown off its hinges in a recent bomb blast, enabling four convicts to make their getaway.

Public prosecutor Bechmann openly laid the blame on a gang of Italians known as the Wuppertal Mafia.

The original Mafia were an 18th century Southern Italian secret society run on patriarchal lines to make money from violence and blackmail.

The name is now used all over the world to denote strictly disciplined gang crime, and there has lately been increasing talk of the Mafia having established themselves in West Germany.

Pundits disagree only as to whether bona fide Mafia are associated with the increase in Germany's recorded crime, with the Bundeskriminalamt, Wiesbaden, discounting any such idea.

"There are no definite indications of the Mafia having set up branches or bases in the Federal Republic. Abduction and blackmail are the two classical Mafia modes of operation and there is no basis for either in this country."

Frankfurt public prosecutor Adelheid Werner, a woman who knows her way around organised crime, does not agree for a moment.

"The Mafia are heavily committed here, in Frankfurt, at least there is

unmistakable evidence of either Mafia activity or the work of gangs organised along Mafia lines."

Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and other cosmopolitan West German cities nowadays boast as almost routine categories crimes that are still very much the exception elsewhere.

They include drug trafficking on a large scale, art robbery to order, internationally organised theft of, say, furs and illegal wholesale arms dealing ranging from pistols to anti-aircraft batteries.

Then there is car theft along strictly run marketing lines, with models in demand being stolen and given a new look, engine and chassis number at garages in the gang's pay.

There are jewellery thefts in accordance with international plans and prostitution similarly run internationally, with women being kept on the move from city to city and country to country as required by the market.

"Gangs are strictly run and professionally organised," says Frau Werner. "Their activities extend from one country to another. Crime is managed in a businesslike manner."

"The management, often under the cover of being harmless businessmen, are on a par with white-collar criminals in both intelligence and professional skills."

Take Frankfurt, for instance, where gangs have links extending to Milan, Rome, Marseilles, Amsterdam and the Middle East. Arms, art, furs, jewellery and de luxe cars are the most popular categories of stolen goods.

Frau Werner's department recently collaborated with the Milan police to put paid to the activities of a gang of car thieves. Its headquarters were in Milan, the procurement department was in Frankfurt.

The gang had 50 members, including 20 to 30 drivers who were continually en route shipping stolen cars from Germany to Syria via Turkey.

Mercedes, Porsche and BMW models were the gang's speciality. They were given a new look in the gang's own garage. Log books and other papers were forged but next to never gave trouble at borders.

"Chassis and engine numbers are erased and fresh numbers stamped with such perfection nowadays that the forgery can only be seen on close scrutiny," says Frau Werner.

At least 30 cars a month were driven from Germany via the Balkans and Turkey to Syria under orders from the gang's Milan headquarters.

Via Interpol the Bundeskriminalamt has had loopholes plugged on the Turkish and Syrian borders, so this gang's activities have now been brought to an end.

But the flow of de luxe cars to the Middle East is uninterrupted, having merely been rerouted to use other channels and other border crossing points.

As long as Interpol is unable to give transit countries a specific tip-off the border crossing arrangement runs like clockwork.

Whenever the going gets too hot on the lucrative runs to Aleppo and Damascus, gangs switch to domestic business, buying relatively new cars written off in crashes and deregistering them with the authorities.

Log books and other papers do not have to be surrendered when a car is deregistered. "That," says Frau Werner, "is a legal loophole that plays straight into car thieves' hands."

A painstaking path to police successes

So once the smashed-up cars have been sold for scrap a matching car can be stolen.

Periodic spectacular successes such as the break-up of the Frankfurt-Milan gang are the result of patience and discipline, smuggling contacts or even police officers into the gangs, hugging and telephone tapping and, especially, international cooperation.

Enquiries abroad must, officially, be conducted time-wastingly via the Bundeskriminalamt and Interpol. But specialists such as Frau Werner occasionally dial direct to their opposite numbers in Rome, Paris or Marseilles when the scent is hot.

Gangs operating in West Germany, certainly, the first-rate operations, are organized along strict business lines. "There are bosses, a middle management and the other ranks," says Frau Werner.

Can this hierarchy be compared to the Mafia in Italy or the United States? It is hard to say. It is even harder to establish links between organised crime in West Germany and the classical Mafia.

The Bundeskriminalamt reckons the likelihood of bona fide Mafia being having been opened in Germany is negligible. Since 1975, when Paolo Lipa, an Italian barber, was charged with deriding Joseph Tudic, a Yugoslav leader, Frau Werner has been convinced the Mafia are at work in Frankfurt.

Lippa was certainly sent to Frankfurt by the Mafia to rub out a girl and an apartment were ready for him, claims Frau Werner.

As soon as he had carried out his mission he was flown straight to a house in a villa in Nice on the Riviera that is owned by a Mafia boss.

His contact person was an ice-cream queen. He was eventually arrested in Rome. When he was tried in a Frankfurt court the Mafia worked behind scenes on his behalf, intimidating prosecution witnesses.

He was given a 10-year sentence soon deported to Italy. "Lippa's outstanding logistics at his disposal in Frankfurt," Frau Werner says, "were able to rely on fellow-countrymen in Frankfurt who obey the Mafia."

Narcotics, the classic field of activity of the US Mafia, is firmly controlled in West Germany by a category of closely resembling the Sicilian Mafia, specialists claim.

Drug running is controlled by Turkish and Kurdish extended families and patriarchal Godfather lines. These are as silent as the grave, obeying the Mafia principle of omertà, or unbroken silence, so it is hard to make headway against them.

Contacts cannot, for obvious reasons, be smuggled into their membership. "Extended families are much more dangerous than conventional gangs in their criminal potential," says Frau Werner.

"As soon as they smell a rat they fight for survival with all means, fair or foul." The clans certainly boast criminal energy and an iron determination to take the family to the top.

They are so well motivated that they are organized gangs have imposed a stranglehold on the narcotics market in a matter of years.

"Small fry, and not even local gangs only, no longer count for much in West Germany. The Turkish and Kurdish clans have even succeeded in extending their activities to the US market," claims Frau Werner. "From Frankfurt large quantities of drugs are shipped to the States."

There is talk of the Mafia where organized crime hits the headlines occasionally. It is warranted, but for most part fears are grossly exaggerated.

"In the Federal Republic a kind of parallel organisation has been set up alongside the Mafia," says Frau Werner. The Godfather's place has been taken by the gang boss.

He is a much less bloodthirsty figure and both arranges for less shooting and cuts a less patriarchal figure. But he fairly lay claim to a greater share of criminal intelligence and is conversant with conditions in a number of countries.

His West German-style Mafia is slightly different from Cosa Nostra, is proving just as tough a customer for the police's point of view.

Walter Gutermuth (Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 April 1980)

SPORT

Ballooning flies high on winds of a comeback

Hot air and hot air balloons have really come into their own again in West Germany over the past couple of decades, with the hot-air variety making a comeback over the past five years or so.

There are 25 ballooning clubs, including four in Baden-Württemberg. These are in Stuttgart, Freiburg, Tübingen and Mannheim. Even balloon exports are made that is probably enough.

Air space is strictly limited. Commercial aviation accounts for only 15 per cent of flight movements. Then come private planes and gliders, parachute jumpers and kite flyers, or hang glider men.

So balloon take-offs have to be notified in advance and a balloon's position must be radioed to a control tower at regular intervals.

At Echterdingen airport once all landings and take-offs had to be completed for three quarters of an hour because of a balloon that had strayed into airport space.

Yet more and more people are attracted by these old-timers of aviation. They are extremely romantic, and each flight is a mystery tour.

"You never can tell what is going to happen. Ballooning is a challenge to your sense of adventure, your feeling of communion with nature."

"It is a wonderful feeling up in the air at the mercy of the wind. It's really thrilling. But I'm afraid I really must come down to earth again," says Ernst Wieland, 67.

He is the oldest of Stuttgart's 34 balloon pilots but all of them, aged from 8 to 70, are equally enthusiastic, even though the youngest cannot peer over the edge of the basket.

The club has two gas balloons that are only filled in Augsburg. Hot-air balloons are more mobile; they can take off anywhere, in theory.

In practice Stuttgart balloonists are only allowed to take off from two launching pads, at Schwaibergingen, near Ludwigsburg, and Albertshausen, near Cöppingen. When the bus and trailer drive into Albertshausen everyone in the village knows what lies ahead. The children run down the main street and across the meadows to the launching pad.

The basket is manhandled into position and the balloon laid out flat on the grass. A common or garden ventilator pumps it full of its 2,300 cubic metres of air.

Propane fills the gaily coloured balloon with life and before long it is aloft, attached to the basket by ropes and snap-hooks like the ones used by mountaineers.

"Let's see where north is," says one of the balloonists and pulls a compass out of his pocket. The air inside the balloon is hot, over 100 degrees centigrade. There has to be an 80-degree difference between inside and out before the balloon can take off.

The crew of three are not spoilt for space in the cramped basket. They stand beside equipment including four propane cylinders (and twin burners above their heads), velocimeters, thermometers and altimeters.

There is also a bottle of Sekt, or German sparkling wine, for beginners. In addition has it that beginners must

single their hair and have the flames put out by a bottle of bubbly.

The pilot is given final words of encouragement ("We'll come and dig you out wherever you land") and off she goes! The balloon gains altitude at six metres a second.

It travels at the speed of wind, in this instance about 12 knots and due south towards the Alps. It is a delightful sensation gliding noiselessly along, and because the balloon is powered by the wind the pilot itself is not felt.

The only disturbance is the noise of the burners as they reheat the gas in the balloon at regular intervals. The balloon travels effortlessly at a height of 100 or 200 metres.

At this height fields and trees, houses and cars glide serenely by at what seems to be little more than arm's length away. People gaze up at the balloon and its crew, waving gaily.

Children grab their pushbikes and try to keep pace with the balloon. So does the motorised pursuit group, the ground crew, as it were.

The ground crew maintains non-stop radio contact with the three men in the balloon. Usually they can see each other all the time.

The pursuit vehicle has spare gas cylinders on board. Hot air may be more mobile than gas-only, but range is

limited by the heating capacity of the gas cylinders.

After a couple of hours or so the balloon has to come down to refuel, as it were. "Turn right along the road across the field to the bridge, then turn left," the pilot wires his ground crew.

From up above you can see where you are going but cannot steer. Up or down is the only choice of direction. Otherwise it is strictly gone with the wind.

The first refuelling operation is at Hattenhofen, the second near the autobahn. The pilot gives orders to stand easy as the basket bumps down. People converge on the balloon to watch the spectacle.

Care is taken to keep the restive balloon floored in position. Farmers who are usually hopping mad when children career through the fields are delighted at the sight of a balloon.

During landing it bumps down more than once, making a deep scratch in the freshly sown field. It really is a sight for sore eyes!

But ballooning is an expensive hobby, although 98 per cent of balloons in the country are sponsored for advertising purposes.

Pilot training takes two years and costs DM2,500. Club membership costs DM11 a month. An hour's flying costs DM60. If you would just like to fly as a passenger you are welcome, but it costs DM100 a time.

But ballooning is still a fine sport that fosters communal spirit. A handful of aviators need any number of supporters. There are few crashes nowadays. The sense of adventure in the past has given way to discipline and responsibility.

Another reason why there are few accidents is that ballooning is a fair-weather sport. "The weather's always good when we go ballooning," Herr Wieland explains. "When it's bad we just don't go up."

Heinz Groth

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 May 1980)



Going with the wind

(Photo: Werek)

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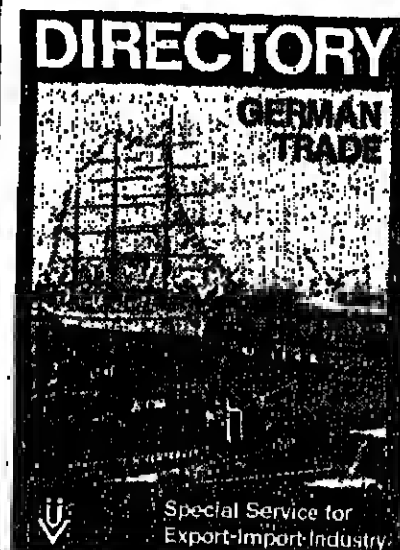
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